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Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A method of instantiating a device driver, comprising:

dynamically associating a first software component with the device driver at run-time, the first software component containing information that facilitates communication with devices of a specific device type.

- 2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising: defining a plurality of device parameters; associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service; and communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver.
- 3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters; wherein associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

deriving a service-specific sub-class from the base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated with the service;

wherein the method further comprises:

instantiating the service-specific sub-class to create a service-specific sub-class object; and

instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver comprises:

passing the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service from the service-specific sub-class object to the device driver.

5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

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defining a plurality of common device parameters;

defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters;

associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein defining the plurality of common device parameters comprises:

declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of common device parameters;

wherein defining the plurality of service-specific device parameters comprises:

providing a second software component that comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file; and

wherein the method further comprises:

instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 6, wherein associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters comprises:

dynamically loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver comprises:

passing the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters from the parameter base class object to the device driver after loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.

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10. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein dynamically associating the first software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with respective ones of a plurality of device types.

- 11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:
 generating the plurality of software components based on a plurality of management information base (MIB) files, respective ones of the plurality of MIB files being associated with respective ones of the plurality of device types.
 - 12. (Original) A method of collecting data from a device, comprising: receiving a request to collect data from the device;

dynamically associating a software component with a device driver at run-time, the software component containing information that facilitates communication with the device; and

retrieving data from the device using the device driver.

13. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein retrieving data from the device using the device driver comprises:

associating at least one device parameter with a service; communicating the at least one device parameter to the device driver; and retrieving data associated with the at least one device parameter from the device.

- 14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.
- 15. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein dynamically associating the software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with respective ones of a plurality of device types.

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16. (Original) A method of instantiating a device driver, comprising:
defining a plurality of device parameters;
associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service; and
dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters

17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 16, wherein defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

defining a plurality of common device parameters; and defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters.

associated with the service to the device driver at run-time.

18. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 17, wherein associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

wherein dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver at run-time comprises:

dynamically communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver at run-time.

19. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 16, wherein defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters; and wherein associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

deriving a service-specific sub-class from the base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated with the service.

20. (Original) A system for instantiating a device driver, comprising:
means for dynamically associating a first software component with the device driver
at run-time, the first software component containing information that facilitates

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communication with devices of a specific device type.

21. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 20, further comprising:
means for defining a plurality of device parameters;
means for associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service;
and

means for communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver.

22. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the means for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

means for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters;

wherein the means for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

means for deriving a service-specific sub-class from the base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated with the service;

wherein the system further comprises:

means for instantiating the service-specific sub-class to create a service-specific subclass object; and

means for instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

23. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the means for communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver comprises:

means for passing the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service from the service-specific sub-class object to the device driver.

24. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 20, further comprising: means for defining a plurality of common device parameters; means for defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters;

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means for associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

means for communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver.

25. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 24, wherein the means for defining the plurality of common device parameters comprises:

means for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of common device parameters;

wherein the means for defining the plurality of service-specific device parameters comprises:

means for providing a second software component that comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file; and

wherein the system further comprises:

means for instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

26. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein the means for associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters comprises:

means for dynamically loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

27. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the means for communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver comprises:

means for passing the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters from the parameter base class object to the device driver after loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

28. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.

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29. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 20, wherein the means for dynamically associating the first software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

means for selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with respective ones of a plurality of device types.

- 30. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 29, further comprising:
 means for generating the plurality of software components based on a plurality of
 management information base (MIB) files, respective ones of the plurality of MIB files being
 associated with respective ones of the plurality of device types.
- 31. (Original) A system for collecting data from a device, comprising:
 means for receiving a request to collect data from the device;
 means for dynamically associating a software component with a device driver at runtime, the software component containing information that facilitates communication with the device; and

means for retrieving data from the device using the device driver.

32. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the means for retrieving data from the device using the device driver comprises:

means for associating at least one device parameter with a service;

means for communicating the at least one device parameter to the device driver; and

means for retrieving data associated with the at least one device parameter from the

device.

- 33. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.
- 34. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the means for dynamically associating the software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

means for selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with

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respective ones of a plurality of device types.

35. (Original) A system for instantiating a device driver, comprising:
means for defining a plurality of device parameters;
means for associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service;
and

means for dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver at run-time.

36. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 35, wherein the means for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

means for defining a plurality of common device parameters; and means for defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters.

37. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 36, wherein the means for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

means for associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

wherein the means for dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver at run-time comprises:

means for dynamically communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver at run-time.

38. (Original) A system as recited in Claim 35, wherein the means for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

means for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters; and

wherein the means for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

means for deriving a service-specific sub-class from the base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated with the service.

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39. (Original) A computer program product for instantiating a device driver, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code for dynamically associating a first software component with the device driver at run-time, the first software component containing information that facilitates communication with devices of a specific device type.

40. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 39, further comprising:

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of device parameters; computer readable program code for associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service; and

computer readable program code for communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver.

41. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 40, wherein the computer readable program code for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters;

wherein the computer readable program code for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

computer readable program code for deriving a service-specific sub-class from the base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated with the service;

wherein the computer program product further comprises:

computer readable program code for instantiating the service-specific sub-class to create a service-specific sub-class object; and

computer readable program code for instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

42. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 41, wherein the

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computer readable program code for communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver comprises:

computer readable program code for passing the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service from the service-specific sub-class object to the device driver.

43. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 39, further comprising:

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of common device parameters;

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters;

computer readable program code for associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

computer readable program code for communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver.

44. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 43, wherein the computer readable program code for defining the plurality of common device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of common device parameters;

wherein the computer readable program code for defining the plurality of servicespecific device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for providing a second software component that comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file; and

wherein the computer program product further comprises:

computer readable program code for instantiating the parameter base class to create a parameter base class object.

45. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 44, wherein the computer readable program code for associating the common device parameters with the

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service-specific device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for dynamically loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

46. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 45, wherein the computer readable program code for communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver comprises:

computer readable program code for passing the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters from the parameter base class object to the device driver after loading the parameter base class object with the second software component at run time.

- 47. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 39, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.
- 48. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 39, wherein the computer readable program code for dynamically associating the first software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

computer readable program code for selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with respective ones of a plurality of device types.

49. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 48, further comprising:

computer readable program code for generating the plurality of software components based on a plurality of management information base (MIB) files, respective ones of the plurality of MIB files being associated with respective ones of the plurality of device types.

50. (Original) A computer program product for collecting data from a device, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

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computer readable program code for receiving a request to collect data from the device;

computer readable program code for dynamically associating a software component with a device driver at run-time, the software component containing information that facilitates communication with the device; and

computer readable program code for retrieving data from the device using the device driver.

51. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 50, wherein the computer readable program code for retrieving data from the device using the device driver comprises:

computer readable program code for associating at least one device parameter with a service;

computer readable program code for communicating the at least one device parameter to the device driver; and

computer readable program code for retrieving data associated with the at least one device parameter from the device.

- 52. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 50, wherein the first software component comprises one of a script file and an extensible markup language (XML) file.
- 53. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 50, wherein the computer readable program code for dynamically associating the software component with the device driver at run-time comprises:

computer readable program code for selecting the first software component from a plurality of software components, respective ones of the plurality of software components being associated with respective ones of a plurality of device types.

54. (Original) A computer program product for instantiating a device driver, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code

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embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of device parameters; computer readable program code for associating at least one of the plurality of device parameters with a service; and

computer readable program code for dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver at run-time.

55. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 54, wherein the computer readable program code for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of common device parameters; and

computer readable program code for defining a plurality of service-specific device parameters.

56. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 55, wherein the computer readable program code for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

computer readable program code for associating the common device parameters with the service-specific device parameters; and

wherein the computer readable program code for dynamically communicating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters associated with the service to the device driver at run-time comprises:

computer readable program code for dynamically communicating the common device parameters and the service-specific device parameters to the device driver at run-time.

57. (Original) A computer program product as recited in Claim 54, wherein the computer readable program code for defining the plurality of device parameters comprises:

computer readable program code for declaring a parameter base class that defines the plurality of device parameters; and

wherein the computer readable program code for associating the at least one of the plurality of device parameters with the service comprises:

computer readable program code for deriving a service-specific sub-class from the

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base class that defines the at least one of the plurality of device parameters that are associated

with the service.